

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE HAILSHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1942 which, as in the previous year, is confined to essential matters affecting the Public Health during the year.

The Crude Death Rate was 14.16 as compared with 13.7. for the previous year and with 11.6 for England and Wales. No attempt has been made to secure comparability with other areas, for reasons outlined in my last Report.

The general health of the District was on the whole satisfactory and the incidence of infectious disease was much the same as in the previous year: no epidemics occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation continued throughout the year, clinics for inoculation were held every month in Hailsham, and in the District areas whenever sufficient members justified the journey.

The following are the numbers dealt with:-

	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>5 - 15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of children who completed the course during 1942.	452	309	761
Number of children Schick tested during 1942.	572	1112	1484

The present method of immunisation shows satisfactory results. Since the doses given have been increased, according to the Ministry's recommendation, the results of the Schick tests have been 100% satisfactory.

There was one case of Diphtheria amongst the age group of children under 15 years of age: this was a child of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years who had not at that time been immunised. He was Schick tested after his recovery and proved to be still susceptible, and therefore has since been immunised.

It is estimated that 70% of the children from 1-5 years of age in the District have been immunised, but this figure is probably on the low side, because it excludes new arrivals, many of whom have probably been immunised in other Districts. It is difficult with the present staff to trace these new arrivals. Of the children 5 - 15 years of age it is estimated that 83% are immunised, but the same factors apply to this group, in that so far it has not been possible to trace all the new arrivals.

The above figures are estimated on the number of children in the District as obtained from the Food Office.

The Immunisation Scheme since the beginning of 1942 has been arranged as one of the health services and the number of new children to be treated each year is estimated to be about 700.

The incidence of Scabies throughout the year was considerable, and 184 cases and contacts were dealt with. It is hoped that the factors which make it so difficult to stamp out this disease are only of a transient nature.

Mr. F. D. Walton and his assistant, Miss Wylie Moore have continued to do excellent work in the organisation and training of the Casualty Services. I am very grateful to Mr. Chapman for the way in which he has dealt with what has at times been an almost overwhelming volume of work: his assistants and the clerical staff have also given loyal co-operation.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Gillitt', with a large, flowing loop at the end.

Medical Officer of Health.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Area in Acres	94,629	94,629
No. of Inhabited houses, end of 1941	10,350	10,350
Rateable Value	£264,028	£263,865
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£1,044	£1,042

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
(a) Legitimate	486	269	217
(b) Illegitimate	51	32	19

Birth Rate per 1,000 Resident Population, 14.87
England and Wales, 15.8

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
(a) Legitimate	10	6	4
(b) Illegitimate	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 28.4

Total Deaths.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population: Crude, 14.16
England and Wales, 11.6

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Apart from one area where an extension of the main was made to serve military establishments thereby rendering a public supply available to civilian properties en route, of which 25 houses took advantage, no main extensions have occurred. The supplies from the companies' mains were periodically examined, bacteriologically and chemically, and were all of high bacterial purity.

Considerable activity has been maintained in the examination of wells, and apart from those affected to an excessive degree, all responded to simple treatment and were rendered wholesome within a few weeks.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No changes or extensions have occurred in any of the sewered areas and no new Services have been provided. No incidents were reported involving the interruption of Sewers or Plant.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

As in previous reports I have again to record the regrettable fact that the practice of discharging farmyard and cesspool effluents directly into streams is prevalent, but in spite of apathy and recognised difficulties, I am able by dint of vigorous informal action under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, to report much progress, in protecting rivers and contributory streams.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

With the increasing demands and consequent response for more Salvage, including much material previously collected as waste, further curtailment of the Refuse Collection Service, which is the basis of Salvage Collection, has been inevitable to meet the restriction on motor fuel. These changes have operated with success and economy, without prejudice to the health or efficiency of the Areas formerly provided with a fuller service, and I gratefully acknowledge the help and forbearance of those residents who have made such reductions possible.

A full Public Cleansing Service has operated, as hitherto, in ten Parishes and a partial Service in two, whilst the Salvage Collections have been arranged to cover the whole area at intervals by one or other of the three vehicles.

The collection Service and the control of Tips have been carried on with great difficulty, owing to the readiness with which certain men have left to take up more attractive work, and since suitable men had either been drafted to essential work or were engaged in protected work, the 'non-essential' work of Refuse and Salvage collection has been gravely prejudiced on several occasions.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No systematic inspection has been possible but visits have been paid to twenty-seven, mainly in connection with the sanitary accommodation necessary for the increased number of personnel, or the introduction of other sexes. This has involved new structures in seven cases.

BAKEHOUSES.

Occasional visits (21) have been paid to Bakehouses and other Food preparing premises and shops, and defects such as deficient ventilation, lack of cleanliness, dampness, faulty ovens, and mice and beetle infestations were dealt with.

HOUSING.

In consequence of the National situation, the routine inspection of houses has been suspended and activities were confined to the remedy of urgent defects, removal of dampness and insanitary conditions. These are detailed in the accompanying Summary and a gratifying feature is that the work has been carried out entirely by informal action. No formal Housing Notice was issued during the year.

OVERCROWDING.

Twelve cases of overcrowding were reported and investigated, none of which were serious, and with two exceptions had been abated by the end of the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1926 AND MILK EXAMINATIONS.

This duty as in previous years has been actively pursued and has included the taking of samples for sediment, chemical (Fats and Non-Fatty solids) and Bacteriological examinations, reports upon which are posted to the Producers with appropriate observations and/or Notices.

This system, together with the technical help which has always been available, has been greatly appreciated and has contributed markedly to the present high standard attained in this area.

There are, notwithstanding, many premises which do not conform to the Milk and Dairies Order, some of which are being progressively improved, whilst others will necessitate partial if not complete reconstruction, a process which is either prohibitive at the present time, or would result in the closure of business.

FOOD INSPECTION.

As far as possible efforts have been made to inspect all carcases slaughtered under permits for the Ministry of Food, and these are included in the Summary together with all Foodstuffs examined and with-held from consumption. Having regard to the phenomenal amount of canned foodstuffs circulating today, the quantity condemned is negligible so far as this district is concerned, and testifies to the excellence of the canning processes.

Only one case of sickness was reported which could be attributed to the consumption of canned meat. (meat roll).

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.

Licenses were issued to men competent to slaughter animals, numbering 30.

KNACKERS YARDS.

Frequent visits have been paid to the two Knackers Establishments in this District where the businesses have been carried on with due regard to cleanliness, removal of offal, avoidance of cruelty etc.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT 1919.

All known methods excepting the use of Rat Lime have been used during the year with destructive effect, and the Rat population has in general been greatly diminished in the area with consequent benefit to health and crops. The results of the Penny per Tail Scheme has been encouraging in that 3048 tails were handed in, but this does not represent the full effect of activity since large numbers of farmers and organisations engage consistently in destruction without reference to the Health Department.

SWIMMING POOL.

Occasional visits were paid to a privately owned Swimming Pool, and special attention was given to the efficiency of the Filtering and Chlorinating processes adopted.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The disinfection of premises is undertaken by the staff, whenever possible, as it is seldom that the uninitiated succeed in exterminating the pest. It is regrettable that an increase of 100% cases have occurred over 1941. Of the 10 cases disinfested, none involved Council Houses.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Public Health Nuisances (Inspections)	955
Complaints	97
Public Cleansing, Salvage etc.	3743
Drainage and Cesspools. New 27. Defective 15. Repaired 20.	62
Closet Accommodation. Privies 11. Chemical 13. W.Cs. 44.	
Elsons 29.	97
Milk and Dairies Order 1926. Registered Premises 655. (Insp)	498
Sediment Tests.	299
Chemical (Fats & Solids-Not-Fat) Tests.	185
Bacteriological Examinations.	178
Slaughterhouses, Butchers Shops, Food Stores, (Inspections)	345
Meat and Food examined and with-held	(lbs) 20,690
Food Stuffs condemned	(lbs) 5,786
Bakehouses & Food preparing Premises. (Inspections)	21
Knackers Yards	57
Water supplies. Corrected or Protected. (Inspections)	216
Water Samples. Informal 57. Formal 4.	61
Housing Inspections and Re-inspections. (Including overcrowding)	247
Dampness. Remedied 19. Found 2.	21
Eaves Gutters Provided, Repaired or Renewed.	11
Defective or insecure Walls, Repaired or Rebuilt.	7
Cooking Ranges, Stoves or Firegrates, Repaired or	
Provided.	21
Deficient lighting or Ventilation corrected.	10
Underfloor Ventilation provided or improved.	5
Ceilings and/or walls, repaired or redecorated.	36
Staircases lighted, repaired or made secure.	6
Cleansing of Premises.	19
Verminous Premises. (Bed Bugs 10) Other Vermin 30.	40
Tents, Vans, and Sheds Inspections.	21
Factories and Workshops. Defects Remedied 27. Inspections.	34
Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919. (Rat Tails collected 3048)	131
Pollution of Streams and Watercourses	63
Accumulations of Refuse or Filth	23
Improper keeping of Animals	14
Rooms Disinfested or Fumigated. Infectious Diseases.	66
Miscellaneous 34. Markets 9. Swimming Pool 14.	57

CAUSES OF DEATH.Male Female.

All Causes

231

228

1. Typhoid and Parat. Fever	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	4
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases	3	3
9. Influenza	1	3
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis	1	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (m) Uterus (f)	1	7
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3
15. Cancer of Breast	-	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	26	16
17. Diabetes	1	3
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	19	33
19. Heart Disease	75	73
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	3
21. Bronchitis	8	12
22. Pneumonia	12	6
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	3
24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	1
26. Appendicitis	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	11
28. Nephritis	7	3
29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	-	1
30. Other maternal causes	-	3
31. Premature Birth	-	3
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	1	3
33. Suicide	4	1
34. Road Traffic Accident	4	-
35. Other Violent Causes	11	3
36. All other causes	29	19

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

<u>NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.</u>														
	Age not known	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and upwards	T O T A L.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	2	5	3	9	4	2	1	1	-	-	28
Pneumonia	2	1	-	1	-	-	4	2	-	4	8	3	4	29
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Puerperal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	15	6	26
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	4	1	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Measles	2	1	2	4	7	2	26	9	1	3	1	-	-	58

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	28	19	-
Pneumonia	30	-	18
Diphtheria	3	1	-
Puerperal Fever	3	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	2	-
Dysentery	26	1	-
Whooping Cough	14	-	-
Measles	58	-	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL EACH MONTH.

<u>Disease.</u>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	5	-	6	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non - Respiratory		Respiratory		Non - Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	1	3	-	-	1	2	-
5 to 15 years	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-
15 to 25 years	5	5	-	-	2	1	-	-
25 to 35 years	2	2	-	1	2	2	-	-
35 to 45 years	4	3	-	-	2	1	-	-
45 to 55 years	4	-	-	1	2	2	-	-
55 to 65 years	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL.</u>	17	12	7	6	10	8	3	-

